



Appendix: After this page is a copy of a Preliminary Amendment previously filed, along with copies of proof that filing.

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APR-15-2003 09:26		ROCKWELL PATENT CEDAR RAP		319 295 8777 P.01	
Facsimile				Intellectual Property Department 400 Collins Rd. NE, 4th Fl. Cedar Rapids, IA 52401	
				Rockwell Collins	
To:	Group Art Unit 2611	From:	Kyle Eppels		
Location:	Box: US Patent Office Group Art Unit 2600	Location:	124-323		
Fax:	703-872-9314	Fax:	319-295-8777		
Tel:		Tel:	319-295-8280		
Pages:	13 (including Lead)	Date:	April 15, 2003		
Applicant: Richard E. Schar et al. Serial No. 09/627,394 Filed: May 26, 1998 For: Aircraft Satellite Television System For Distributing Television Programming Derived From Direct Broadcast Satellites DocId: No. PD-A96003-KLS Item: Preliminary Amendment comprising of 10 pages, Amendment Transmitted (in duplicate)					
Transmitted by: Kyle Eppels Reg. 34,155					
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Location:	Box: US Patent Office Group Art Unit 2600	Location:	124-323
Fax:	703-872-9314	Fax:	319-295-8777
Tel:		Tel:	319-295-8280
Pages:	13 (including Lead)	Date:	April 15, 2003

Applicant: Richard E. Sklar et al.

Serial No. 09/627,394

Filed: May 26, 1998

For: Aircraft Satellite Television System For Distributing Television Programming Derived From Direct Broadcast Satellites

Docket No.: PD-A96003/KE

Item: Preliminary Amendment comprising of 10 pages, Amendment Transmittal (in duplicate)

Thanks,

Kyle Epele
Reg. 34,155

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of
Richard E. SKLAR et al.

Serial No.: 09/627,394

Filed: July 27, 2000



Examiner: Unknown

Group Art Unit: 2611

COPY

For: AIRCRAFT SATELLITE TELEVISION SYSTEM FOR DISTRIBUTING TELEVISION
PROGRAMMING DERIVED FROM DIRECT BROADCAST SATELLITES

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I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to
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4/15/2003

(Date of Deposit)

AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an Amendment in the above-captioned application. The fee has been
calculated as shown below. (Small entity fees indicated in parentheses.)

CLAIMS AS AMENDED						
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
	Claims Remaining After Amendment		Highest Number Previously Paid For	Extra Claims	Rate	Fee
Total Claims	45	-	19	26	18.00	468.00
(Small Entity)					(9.00)	
Independent claims	8	-	6	2	84.00	168.00
(Small Entity)					(42.00)	
Multiple Dependent	0	-	0	0	280.00	
(Small Entity)					(140.00)	
Extension of Time	One Month		Two Months	Three Months	Four Months	
Fee	\$110		\$300	\$520	\$520	
(Small Entity)	(\$55)		(\$150)	(\$260)	(\$260)	
Total						\$636.00

Please charge my Deposit Account No. 18-1722 in the amount of \$636.00. A duplicate copy of this
sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Eppele
(Signature)

Kyle Eppele
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 34,155

April 15, 2003

Date

Rockwell Collins, Inc.
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In re patent application of
Richard E. SKLAR et al.

Serial No.: 09/627,394

Filed: July 27, 2000



Examiner: Unknown

Group Art Unit: 2611

COPY

For: AIRCRAFT SATELLITE TELEVISION SYSTEM FOR DISTRIBUTING TELEVISION
PROGRAMMING DERIVED FROM DIRECT BROADCAST SATELLITES

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(Small Entity)					(42.00)	
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Total						\$636.00

Please charge my Deposit Account No. 18-1722 in the amount of \$636.00. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

April 15, 2003
Date

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Intellectual Property Dept.
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Customer No. 26383

Kyle Eppele
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 34,155

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of
Richard E. SKLAR et al.

Serial No.: 09/627,394

Filed: July 27, 2000



Examiner: Unknown

Group Art Unit: 2611

For: AIRCRAFT SATELLITE TELEVISION SYSTEM FOR DISTRIBUTING
TELEVISION PROGRAMMING DERIVED FROM DIRECT BROADCAST
SATELLITES

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.173

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 15 and 19 as follows (A clean copy of the amended claims is provided at the end of this reply, in the section entitled "Version With Markings to Show Changes Made"), and please add new claims 20-45 as provide below:

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15. (Amended) A satellite television system that provides television programming to passengers on an aircraft derived from at least one satellite, said system comprising:

a video and audio signal distribution system disposed on the aircraft, the video and audio signal distribution system being configured to distribute video and audio signals to the passengers on the aircraft;

a steerable antenna that is capable of being steered towards the at least one satellite in response to control signals supplied thereto;

an antenna controller that is coupled to the steerable antenna, the antenna controller being configured to provide the control signals to the steerable antenna, to steer the steerable antenna so that the steerable antenna is locked onto RF signals transmitted by the at least one satellite, and to downconvert the RF signals to provide downconverted RF signals that correspond to a plurality of programming channels; and

a receiver/decoder that is coupled to the antenna controller and to the video and audio signal distribution system, the receiver/decoder being configured to process the downconverted RF signals to provide video and audio signals corresponding to the plurality of programming channels, and to output the video and audio signals to the video and audio signal distribution system which distributes the plurality of programming channels in real time to the passengers.

19. (Amended) A satellite television system that provides television programming to passengers on an aircraft derived from at least one satellite, said system comprising:

a video and audio signal distribution system disposed on the aircraft, the video and audio signal distribution system being configured to distribute video and audio signals to the passengers on the aircraft;

a steerable antenna that is capable of being steered towards the at least one satellite in response to control signals supplied thereto;

an antenna controller that is coupled to the steerable antenna, the antenna controller being configured to provide the control signals to the steerable antenna, to steer the steerable antenna so that the steerable antenna is locked onto RF signals transmitted by the at least one satellite;

a downconverter that is coupled to the antenna controller and that downconverts the RF signals to provide downconverted RF signals that correspond to a plurality of programming channels; and

a receiver/decoder that is coupled to the downconverter and to the video and audio signal distribution system, the receiver/decoder being configured to process the downconverted RF signals to provide video and audio signals corresponding to the plurality of programming channels, and to output the video and audio signals to the video and audio signal distribution system which distributes the plurality of programming channels in real time to the passengers.

20. (New) A system that provides video or audio to passengers on an aircraft, the video or audio being obtained from satellite-transmitted signals, the system comprising:

a steerable antenna that is capable of being steered towards the at least one satellite in response to control signals supplied thereto;

an antenna controller that is coupled to the steerable antenna, the antenna controller being configured to provide the control signals to the steerable antenna, to steer the steerable antenna so that the steerable antenna is locked onto RF signals transmitted by at least one satellite, and to downconvert the RF signals to provide downconverted RF signals that correspond to a plurality of video or audio channels; and

a receiver/decoder that is coupled to the antenna controller and which is configured to process the downconverted RF signals to provide video or audio signals corresponding to the plurality of video or audio channels, for distribution of the video or audio to the passengers.

21. (New) The system of claim 20, further comprising:

a video and audio signal distribution system disposed on the aircraft, the video and audio signal distribution system being configured to receive the plurality of video or audio channels output by the receiver/decoder and to distribute the video or audio to the passengers.

22. (New) The system of claim 20, wherein the control signals provided by the antenna controller are provided in response to inertial reference signals received by the antenna controller.

23. (New) The system of claim 20, wherein the control signals provided by the antenna controller are provided in response to global positioning system (GPS) signals received by the antenna controller.

24. (New) The system of claim 20, wherein the control signals provided by the antenna controller are provided in response to status signals received by the antenna controller.

25. (New) The system of claim 20, further comprising:
an antenna interface unit communicatively coupled between the steerable antenna and the antenna controller,
wherein the status signals are output by the steerable antenna and are transferred to the antenna controller by way of the antenna interface unit.

26. (New) The system of claim 20, wherein the downconverter downconverts the RF signals to a range of 950 to 1450 MHz.

27. (New) The system of claim 20, wherein the downconverter receives the RF signals in a range of 12.2 to 12.7 GHz, and downconverts the RF signals to intermediate frequency (IF) signals in a range of 950 to 1450 MHz.

28. (New) The system of claim 20, further comprising:
an antenna interface unit communicatively coupling the steerable antenna to the antenna controller and to the receiver/decoder,
wherein status signals output by the steerable antenna are provided to the antenna controller by way of the antenna interface unit.

29. (New) The system of claim 20, wherein the steerable antenna is capable of being either electronically steered or mechanically steered.

30. (New) The system of claim 29, wherein the steerable antenna is positioned to track the at least one satellite in both azimuth and elevation directions.

31. (New) The system of claim 29, further comprising at least one servo motor coupled to the steerable antenna, wherein the steerable antenna is positioned by the at least one servo motor to track the at least one satellite so as to receive signals output by the at least one satellite.

32. (New) The system of claim 20, wherein a portion of the process performed by the receiver/decoder to convert the downconverted RF signals into the video or audio signals includes MPEG decoding.

33. (New) The system of claim 20, wherein the video or audio signals output by the receiver/decoder are analog signals.

34. (New) A system that provides video or audio to passengers on an aircraft, the video or audio being obtained from satellite-transmitted signals, the system comprising:

a steerable antenna that is capable of being steered towards at least one satellite in response to control signals supplied thereto;

an antenna controller that is coupled to the steerable antenna, the antenna controller being configured to provide the control signals to the steerable antenna, to steer the steerable antenna so that the steerable antenna is locked onto RF signals transmitted by the at least one satellite;

a downconverter that is coupled to the antenna controller and that downconverts the RF signals to provide downconverted RF signals that correspond to a plurality of video or audio channels; and

a receiver/decoder that is coupled to the antenna controller and which is configured to process the downconverted RF signals to provide video or audio signals corresponding to the plurality of video or audio channels, for distribution of the video or audio to the passengers.

35. (New) The system of claim 34, further comprising:

a video and audio signal distribution system disposed on the aircraft, the video and audio signal distribution system being configured to receive the plurality of video or audio channels output by the receiver/decoder and to distribute the video or audio to the passengers.

36. (New) The system of claim 34, wherein the control signals provided by the antenna controller are provided in response to inertial reference signals received by the antenna controller.

37. (New) The system of claim 34, wherein the control signals provided by the antenna controller are provided in response to global positioning system (GPS) signals received by the antenna controller.

38. (New) The system of claim 34, wherein the control signals provided by the antenna controller are provided in response to status signals received by the antenna controller.

39. (New) The system of claim 34, further comprising:

an antenna interface unit communicatively coupled between the steerable antenna and the antenna controller,

wherein the status signals are output by the steerable antenna and are transferred to the antenna controller by way of the antenna interface unit.

40. (New) The system of claim 34, wherein the downconverter downconverts the RF signals to a specific frequency.

41. (New) The system of claim 34, wherein the downconverter receives the RF signals in a range of 12.2 to 12.7 GHz, and downconverts the RF signals to intermediate frequency (IF) signals in a range of 950 to 1450 MHz.

42. (New) The system of claim 34, further comprising:

an antenna interface unit communicatively coupling the steerable antenna to the antenna controller and to the receiver/decoder,

wherein status signals output by the steerable antenna are provided to the antenna controller by way of the antenna interface unit.

43. (New) The system of claim 34, wherein the steerable antenna is capable of being either electronically steered or mechanically steered.

44. (New) The system of claim 43, wherein the steerable antenna is positioned to track the at least one satellite in both azimuth and elevation directions.

45. (New) The system of claim 43, further comprising at least one servo motor coupled to the steerable antenna, wherein the steerable antenna is positioned by the at least one servo motor to track the at least one satellite so as to receive signals output by the at least one satellite.

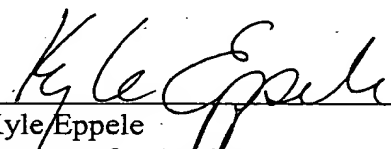
REMARKS

By way of this preliminary amendment, claim 15 has been amended to correct an obvious error found in that claim. Also, claim 15 and claim 19 have been amended to remove an unnecessary limitation from the preamble. Further, new claims 20-45 have been added. No new matter has been added.

Respectfully submitted,

April 15, 2003

Date



Kyle Eppele
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 34,155

Rockwell Collins, Inc.
Intellectual Property Dept.
400 Collins Road, NE, M/S 124/323
Cedar Rapids, IA 52498
Customer No. 26383

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

MARKED-UP CLAIMS:

15. (Amended) A satellite television system that provides television programming [in real time] to passengers on an aircraft derived from at least one satellite, said system comprising:

a video and audio signal distribution system disposed on the aircraft, the video and audio signal distribution system being configured to distribute video and audio signals to the passengers on the aircraft;

a steerable antenna that is capable of being steered towards the at least one satellite in response to control signals supplied thereto;

an antenna controller that is coupled to the steerable antenna, the antenna controller being configured to provide the control signals to the steerable antenna, to steer the steerable antenna so that the steerable antenna is locked onto RF signals transmitted by the at least one satellite, and to downconvert the RF signals to provide downconverted RF signals that correspond to a plurality of programming channels; and

a receiver/decoder that is coupled to the antenna controller and to the video and audio signal distribution system, the [antenna controller] receiver/decoder being configured to process the downconverted RF signals to provide video and audio signals corresponding to the plurality of programming channels, and to output the video and audio signals to the video and audio signal distribution system which distributes the plurality of programming channels (in real time) to the passengers.

19. (Amended) A satellite television system that provides television programming [in real time] to passengers on an aircraft derived from at least one satellite, said system comprising:

a video and audio signal distribution system disposed on the aircraft, the video and audio signal distribution system being configured to distribute video and audio signals to the passengers on the aircraft;

a steerable antenna that is capable of being steered towards the at least one satellite in response to control signals supplied thereto;

an antenna controller that is coupled to the steerable antenna, the antenna controller being configured to provide the control signals to the steerable antenna, to steer the steerable antenna so that the steerable antenna is locked onto RF signals transmitted by the at least one satellite;

a downconverter that is coupled to the antenna controller and that downconverts the RF signals to provide downconverted RF signals that correspond to a plurality of programming channels; and

a receiver/decoder that is coupled to the downconverter and to the video and audio signal distribution system, the receiver/decoder being configured to process the downconverted RF signals to provide video and audio signals corresponding to the plurality of programming channels, and to output the video and audio signals to the video and audio signal distribution system which distributes the plurality of programming channels in real time to the passengers.